

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please **AMEND** claim 24 as follows.

Please **ADD** claims 35-49 as follows.

A copy of all pending claims and a status of the claims is provided below.

1.-13. (canceled)

14. (Previously presented) A prosthetic knee joint, comprising:

an upper part having a fastening device adapted for a receptacle for a leg stump;

a lower part pivotably connected to the upper part via an articulation device; and

a resistance device having adjustable resistance and configured to act as a lock which, via a mechanical control device and as a function of an angle, blocks a flexion of the articulation device in a flexed position within a definable angle range,

wherein the lower part is freely pivotable in the flexion direction outside the definable angle range without action of the resistance device.

15. (Withdrawn) A prosthetic knee joint comprising:

an upper part having a fastening device adapted for a receptacle for a leg stump;

a lower part pivotably connected to the upper part via an articulation device;

a catch device configured to lock the prosthetic knee joint in an extended position, the catch device being configured to be locked and unlocked by an operating device; and

a resistance device with adjustable resistance, the resistance device providing resistance to flexion of the articulation device as a function of an angle within an angle range definable via a mechanical control device, wherein the lower part is freely pivotable in the flexion direction outside the definable angle range without action of the resistance device.

16. (Previously presented) The prosthetic knee joint as claimed in claim 14, wherein the lower part is freely extended.

17. (Previously presented) The prosthetic knee joint as claimed in claim 14, wherein the resistance device is configured to increase the resistance to the flexion to a locking action, and the resistance device is configured such that it can be switched.
18. (Withdrawn) The prosthetic knee joint as claimed in claim 14, wherein at least one of the resistance device and a catch device is coupled to an operating device via which the resistance is increased or decreased or the locking is released or locked.
19. (Withdrawn) The prosthetic knee joint as claimed in claim 18, wherein the operating device is driven by hand or by motor.
20. (Withdrawn) The prosthetic knee joint as claimed in claim 19, wherein the operating device is a remote control device.
21. (Withdrawn) The prosthetic knee joint as claimed in claim 14, wherein the resistance device is connected to a mechanical control device which has at least one cam disk and switches the resistance device as a function of the angle of flexion of the upper part relative to the lower part.
22. (Previously presented) The prosthetic knee joint as claimed in claim 14, wherein the resistance device is a hydraulic or pneumatic unit, a friction coupling or an electromagnetic coupling, or a magnetorheological or piezoelectric device.
23. (Previously presented) The prosthetic knee joint as claimed in claim 22, wherein the hydraulic or pneumatic unit has a controllable valve system which is arranged inside a piston guided in a cylinder.
24. (Currently Amended) A prosthetic knee joint, comprising[[:]]:
 - an upper part having a fastening device for a receptacle for a leg stump;
 - a lower part pivotably connected to the upper part via an articulation device;

a catch device configured to lock the prosthetic knee joint in an extended position, the catch device being configured to be locked and unlocked by an operating device, the operating device being operated by remote control.

25. (Withdrawn) A prosthetic knee joint, comprising:

an upper part which has a fastening device for a receptacle for a leg stump;
a lower part pivotably connected to the upper part via an articulation device;
a catch device configured to lock the prosthetic knee joint in the extended position, the catch device being locked and unlocked by an operating device; and
a delay element associated with the catch device which unlocks or re-locks the catch device after a time delay after activation of the unlocking.

26. (Withdrawn) The prosthetic knee joint as claimed in claim 25, wherein the delay element is a relay, an elastic and/or Theological element or an electronic circuit with actuator.

27. (Withdrawn) The prosthetic knee joint as claimed in claim 15, wherein the lower part is freely extended.

28. (Withdrawn) The prosthetic knee joint as claimed in claim 15, wherein the resistance device is configured to increase the resistance to the flexion to a locking action, and the resistance device is configured such that it can be switched.

29. (Withdrawn) The prosthetic knee joint as claimed in claim 15 wherein at least one of the resistance device and the catch device is coupled to an operating device via which the resistance is increased or decreased or the locking is released or locked.

30. (Withdrawn) The prosthetic knee joint as claimed in claim 29, wherein the operating device is driven by hand or by motor.

31. (Withdrawn) The prosthetic knee joint as claimed in claim 30, wherein the operating device is a remote control device.

32. (Withdrawn) The prosthetic knee joint as claimed in claim 15, wherein the resistance device is connected to a mechanical control device which has at least one cam disk and switches the resistance device as a function of the angle of flexion of the upper part relative to the lower part.

33. (Withdrawn) The prosthetic knee joint as claimed in claim 15, wherein the resistance device is a hydraulic or pneumatic unit, a friction coupling or an electromagnetic coupling, or a magnetorheological or piezoelectric device.

34. (Withdrawn) The prosthetic knee joint as claimed in claim 33, wherein the hydraulic or pneumatic unit has a controllable valve system which is arranged inside a piston guided in a cylinder.

35. (New) The prosthetic knee joint as claimed in claim 14, wherein the articulation device is a rear articulation lever.

36. (New) The prosthetic knee joint as claimed in claim 35, wherein the upper part is articulated directly on a bearing bracket, and a piston rod of the resistance device is connected to a rear section of the upper part via the rear articulation lever.

37. (New) The prosthetic knee joint as claimed in claim 14, wherein the resistance device is a piston assembly arranged within a cylindrical wall of the lower part, the piston assembly includes a controllable valve system which is switched via a control rod guided centrally in a piston rod of the piston assembly.

38. (New) The prosthetic knee joint as claimed in claim 37, wherein the controllable valve system is centrally located inside the piston of the piston assembly.

39. (New) The prosthetic knee joint as claimed in claim 37, wherein switching is effected by valves of the controllable valve system loaded in an axial direction.

40. (New) The prosthetic knee joint as claimed in claim 37, wherein the controllable valve system includes a main valve arranged inside piston to permit an upward movement of the piston and piston rod at all times, and to prevent a downward movement of the piston.

41. (New) The prosthetic knee joint as claimed in claim 40, wherein:

when the control rod does not press the main valve downward, the main valve prevents the downward movement of the piston but permits the upward movement of the piston, as hydraulic oil is able to flow unimpeded through bores from an upper chamber into a lower chamber of the cylindrical wall of the lower part; and

in a switched state of the main valve, when the control rod presses the main valve downward, and the hydraulic fluid flows from the lower chamber into the upper chamber through the bores, so that the downward movement of the piston is permitted.

42. (New) The prosthetic knee joint as claimed in claim 41, wherein in the switched state, the main valve allows the piston to move freely in two directions.

43. (New) The prosthetic knee joint as claimed in claim 40, further comprising an auxiliary valve arranged inside the main valve, the auxiliary valve and the main valve block the downward movement of the piston and block a flexion movement when the control rod does not contact either the main valve or the auxiliary valve.

44. (New) The prosthetic knee joint as claimed in claim 43, wherein the control rod has two shoulders which are assigned to the respective main valve and the auxiliary valve.

45. (New) The prosthetic knee joint as claimed in claim 44, wherein the shoulders are axially offset relative to one another, such that a second shoulder comes into engagement with the auxiliary valve earlier than does a first shoulder with the main valve.

46. (New) The prosthetic knee joint as claimed in claim 43, wherein a state in which the auxiliary valve is switched open via the control rod, the downward movement of the piston is

permitted and when the auxiliary valve is not switched it acts as a non return valve and closes a through-opening inside the main valve, in which the auxiliary valve is guided via a valve stem.

47. (New) The prosthetic knee joint as claimed in claim 43, wherein the auxiliary valve includes a valve disk, an oval configuration valve stem, and, at an end remote from the valve disk, a flattened area, which is a rotationally fixed coupling to the control rod.

48. (New) The prosthetic knee joint as claimed in claim 47, wherein the valve stem has a non-rotationally symmetrical cross section such that the auxiliary valve can be guided in a round valve guide inside the main valve and, by turning of the valve stem, it is possible to adjust a flow rate allowed through the auxiliary valve.